

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-07 ISO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-06 AID-01 SSO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6935

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ATHENS 285

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDA

TAGS: PFOR GR TU CY

SUBJECT: CONGRESSMEN BRADEMAS AND SARBANES VISIT TO
ATHENS - A PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

1. SUMMARY. REPRESENTATIVES BRADEMAS AND SARBANES DEPARTED ATHENS JAN 12 AFTER ONE WEEK VISIT WHICH INCLUDED TALKS WITH TOP GREEK OFFICIALS. A ONE DAY SIDE TRIP TO CYPRUS ALSO PERMITTED EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH CYPRIOT LEADERS. AS RESULT THESE MEETINGS AND OWN OBSERVATIONS, BOTH REPRESENTATIVES SAY THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT GOG HAS FORMULATED PROPOSALS FOR SOLUTION TO CYPRUS PROBLEM WHICH NOT ONLY REPRESENT GENUINE COMPROMISE ON ITS PART BUT SUBSTANTIALLY MEET LEGITIMATE TURKISH REQUIREMENTS AS WELL. THE TWO CONGRESSMEN OF OPINION THAT NEXT AND MOST CRITICAL MOVE NOW RESTS WITH USG TO CONVINCE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT PROPOSALS AND MOVE FORWARD TOWARDS THEIR IMPLEMENTATION. IN THEIR PUBLIC STATEMENTS, CONGRESSMEN ACKNOWLEDGED THEIR PAST DISAGREEMENT WITH USG (EXECUTIVE BRANCH) POLICY RE CYPRUS, BUT THEY PHRASED THEM IN LOW KEYED MANNER WHICH INCORPORATED POSITIVE OUTLOOK TOWARDS LIKELIHOOD LIGISLATIVE/EXECUTIVE BRANCH RECONCILIATION VIEWS IN NEAR FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

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2. REPRESENTATIVES JOHN BRADEMAS (DEM INDIANA) AND

PAUL SARBANES (DEM MARYLAND) DEPARTED ATHENS MORING JAN 12 AFTER STAY OF APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK. REP BRADEMAS HAD ARRIVED HERE JAN 6 ON PRIVATE VISIT (STATE 001049) WHILE REP SARBANES ORIGINALLY CAME TO ATHENS AS MEMBER CODEL WILSON (STATE 284301) ON JAN 4 BUT EXTENDED HIS ATHENS STAY AFTER THAT CODELS JAN 7 DEPARTURE (STATE 283653). BOTH CONGRESSMEN EVIDENCED PARAMOUNT CONCERN WITH CYPRUS PROBLEM DURING THEIR VISIT HERE AND THEY COORDINATED THEIR ACTIVITIES AND APPOINTMENTS WITH VIEW TOWARDS MAXIMIZING IMPACT THEIR OWN VIEWS AND REALIZING OPTIMUM OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH GREEK OFFICIALS. ACTIVITIES IN ATHENS OF REP SARBANES WHILE MEMBER OF CODEL WILSON PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN ATHENS 122 AND ATHENS 123.

3. GREEK POLITICAL LEADERS VISITED TWO CONGRESSMEN INCLUDED PM CARAMANLIS, MINISTER DEFENSE AVEROFF, AND CU/NF OPPOSITION LEADER GEORGE MAVROS. IN COURSE DINNER HOSTED BY CHARGE STEARNS JANUARY 8 AND RECEPTION OFFERED BY PARLIAMENT PRESIDENT PAPACONSTANTINOU JAN 10, BOTH REPS HAD ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET OTHER CABINET OFFICIALS, MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND JOURNALISTS. WHILE THEY EVINced INTEREST TO MEET PASOK LEADER ANDREAS PAPANDREOU, LATTER DID NOT RECIPROCATe AND MEETING WITH HIM DID NOT OCCUR. PRESS AND OTHER MEDIA COVERAGE REPRESENTATIVES VARIOUS ACTIVITES, INCLUDING ONE DAY VISIT TO CYPRUS (SEE PARA 4 BELOW), WAS THOROUGH (ATHENS 235) AND POSITIVE. ESPECIALLY WIDE COVERAGE GIVEN TO PRESS CONFERENCE CALLED BY CONGRESSMEN WHICH WAS HELD IN USIS OFFICES ATHENS. (SEE ATHENS 184).

4. REPS BRADEMAs AND SARBANES DEPARTED ATHENS MID DAY JAN 9 FOR ONE DAY VISIT TO CYPRUS, RETURNING TO GREEK CAPITAL AT 1840 HOURS LOCAL, JAN 10.

5. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH CHARGE AND EMBASSY CONTROL OFFICER PRIOR TO DEPARTURE, BOTH REPRESENTATIVES SUMMARIZED THEIR OWN VIEWS ON CYPRUS PROBLEM AND PRESENTED THEIR ASSESSMENT OF VIEWS OF GREEK AND CYPRIOT LEADERS. IN SUM BOTH BRADEMAs AND SARBANES STATED THAT IN THEIR CONFIDENTIAL

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VIEW GOG HAS NOW FORMULATED A PACKAGE PROPOSAL WHICH REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT COMPROMISE ON ITS OWN PART AND GOES FAR TOWARDS MEETING LEGITIMATE NEEDS OF TURKISH SIDE. ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT GREEK POSITION -- AS ENUNCIATED TO REPS BY PM CARAMANLIS MOST RECENTLY IN

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-07 ISO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-06 SSO-00 AID-01

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ATHENS 285

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDA

TAGS: PFOR GR TU CY

SUBJECT: CONGRESSMEN BRADEMAS AND SARBANES VISIT TO
ATHENS - A PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

EVENING DISCUSSION JAN 10 AT WHICH MINDEF AVEROFF
ALSO PRESENT--CALLS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF FOUR CANTONS IN
NORTHERN CYPRUS, WHERE TURKISH-CYPRIOTS WOULD CONSTITUTE
MAJORITY OF POPULATION. GOG FEELS THIS ESSENTIALLY REFLECTS
PROPOSALS PREVIOUSLY PUT FORTH BY FORMER TURKISH FOREIGN
MINISTER GUNES BEFORE GENEVA CONFERENCE ABORTED LAST
AUGUST. PM TOLD REPS. THAT THIS PROPOSAL IS NOT MERELY AN
"OPENING BARGAINING POSITION" BUT RATHER REFLECTS GOG'S
"HONEST APPRAISAL" OF ITS OUTER-LIMIT NATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE
STANCE. PM STATED HE AND GREEK PEOPLE CANNOT ACCEPT A
BIZONAL SOLUTION, NOT JUST BECAUSE IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY
UNSALEABLE BUT RATHER BECAUSE IT IS FUNDAMENTALLY
OPPOSED TO GREEK SENTIMENTS AND NATIONAL INTERESTS.
PM CONTENDS GOG HAS MADE MAJOR COMPROMISE IN
FORMULATING SUCH A PROPOSAL AND BY ABANDONING CONCEPT OF
UNITARY STATE IN FAVOR OF FEDERAL STATE.

6. PM TOLD REPS THAT HE FEELS HE HAS WON SIGNIFICANT
SUCCESS IN BRINGING ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS "INTO LINE" AND
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CLAIMED THAT ARCHBISHOP FULLY ACCEPTS "FOUR CANTON" PROPOSAL AND WILL NOT RPT NOT ATTEMPT UNDERCUT IT. PM ALSO IMPRESSED STRONGLY ON CONGRESSMEN HIS FIRM INTENTION NOT RPT NOT TO "GO TO WAR OVER CYPRUS." CARAMANLIS STRESSED CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF TIME ELEMENT, ARGUING THAT A BARGAIN MUST BE STRUCK SOONEST WITH TURKS SINCE WITH PASSAGE OF TIME SO MUCH CAN BECOME UNRAVELLED--PERHAPS IRREVOCABLY. PM DISCOUNTED ARGUMENT THAT SETTLEMENT MUST AWAIT ESTABLISHMENT OF POLITICAL GOVERNMENT IN TURKEY, ARGUING INSTEAD THAT INTERIM GOVERNMENT WITH BACKING OF TURKISH MILITARY-- IF IT PERCEIVES GREEK PROPOSAL AS FAIR AND JUST--CAN MOVE AHEAD VERY QUICKLY, UNHAMPERED BY NECESSITY OF ENGAGING IN TIME CONSUMING POLITICAL DEBATES AND DISPUTES.

7. BOTH CONGRESSMEN STATED UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT PM CARAMANIS FEELS NEXT CRITICAL MOVE UP TO USG, I.E. TO CONVINCE TURKS OF WISDOM--AND NECESSITY--TO ACCEPT GREEK PROPOSALS. PM FEELS ONLY SECRETARY HAS AUTHORITY AND LEVERAGE TO ACCOMPLISH THIS TASK, AND TIME IS NOW FOR USG TO MOVE FORCEFULLY TOWARDS THIS END.

8. BOTH CONGRESSMEN STATED IT WOULD BE GRAVE MISTAKE TO "NEGLECT" MAKARIOS AND ATTEMPT TO WORK PRIMARILY THROUGH CLERIDES. THEY CHARACTERIZED MAKARIOS AS INDISPENSABLE TO A SOLUTION. THEY SAID THAT IN THEIR OPINION MAKARIOS HAD ACCEPTED LIMITATIONS ON GREEK-CYPRIOT POSITION URGED ON HIM BY CARAMANLIS AND THAT THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES AT PRESENT BETWEEN ARCHBISHOP AND PRIME MINISTER. THEY WERE FULL OF PRAISE FOR BOTH CARAMANLIS AND MAKARIOS BUT WERE CRITICAL OF CLERIDES WHO THEY CLAIMED WAS "PLAYING HIS OWN GAME" AND DID NOT SHARE DESIRE OF PRIMIN AND ARCHBISHOP TO ACHIEVE EARLY SETTLEMENT. IN LIKE VEIN, THEY TOLD EMBOFFS THEY HAVE POSITIVE FEELING TOWARDS DENKTASH WHO THEY FEEL CAN BE CONVINCED TO ABANDON CURRENT BIZONAL THINKING IN FAVOR OF CANTONAL PROPOSAL. REPS ALLEGE DENKTASH'S MAIN CONCERN IS SECURITY OF TURKISH CYPRIOTS AND THEY FEEL THIS REQUIREMENT CAN BE MET WITH APPROPRIATE MODIFICATION TO CANTONAL CONCEPT. KUBISCH

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